Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-10 are pending.

The specification has been amended to include section headers. The abstract has been rewritten to be in narrative form.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace "the process" with "the method." Applicants submit that the objections to the specification and the claims have been overcome in view of these amendments.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boyles, et al., applicants respectfully submit that for the reasons discussed below Boyles fails to disclose or suggest a notable feature of the present claims, and as such, claims 1-10 are not anticipated by Boyles.

The present invention relates to a system having a number of devices in a network, wherein each device includes a 'registry.' The registry of a device holds a list of objects local to this device. The objects can be, for example, device control modules (e.g. a VCR control module), functional modules within a device (e.g. a tuner), applications (e.g. a user interface), other software modules (a messaging system, an isochronous stream management module...) etc.

According to the present invention, when an object of a device makes a query, for example a request for all video sources on the network, this query is sent to the local registry. The local registry then sends queries to all other registries of the network, collates the responses (with its own response if applicable) and sends a response back to the requesting object. Thus there may be multiple objects corresponding to a given request.

In that regard, claim 1 recites the steps of:

- registering local objects present in a device in a local registry managed at the level of this device;

*- formulating, by a local object, a request for a list of objects, **the request being transmitted to the single local registry** of the device hosting the local object;*

*- **propagating the request through the local registry to distant registries;***

> *- **collecting the responses to the request by the distant registries** and the response of the local registry; and*
>
> *- **transmitting the responses collected to the local object** having formulated the initial request.* (emphasis added)

Claim 9 recites similar features in a device format. Applicants submit that these features are not disclosed or suggested by Boyles, et al.

Boyles et al. addresses the management of cache servers in a network, where the cache servers maintain certain data concerning so-called 'target resources'. The behaviour of the cache servers following a request from a node of the network ('LOCATE' request) is significantly different compared to that of the claimed invention.

In the network disclosed by Boyles et al., a cache server comprises three different types of 'directories': a local directory, a domain directory and a cross-domain directory. The local directory concerns resources local to the cache server, the domain directory lists resources located within the same domain and the cross-domain directory has yet a broader scope (see col. 5, lines 4-10).

As described col. 5, lines 46-52, following a 'LOCATE' request from any node in the domain, a cache server first searches its local directory for the sought-after resource. If the resource is not found, the cache server extends the search to its domain directory and then to the cross-domain directory. If the resource has not yet been found, it then broadcasts a LOCATE request to other cache servers.

Note that the above implies that the requesting node knows in advance which exact resource it is looking for, since this information is needed by a cache server to process the request and to determine whether the request should be extended to its directories of broader coverage. As soon as the sought after resource is located, the request is no longer propagated.

By contrast, in the claimed invention, the request is made for <u>a list of objects</u>, not a single object. The request is spread to remote registries, all responses then being collected and processed for transmission to the requesting object.

In the network disclosed by Boyles et al., such a request for a list of objects (corresponding e.g. to a certain criterion such as an attribute value as claimed in claims and following of the application) is not possible, because only one response can be made. Also, the responses from the distant registries are not collected, wherein the collected responses are transmitted to the requesting node.

In summary, Boyles et al. does not disclose nor suggest, at least, that a request is made for a list of objects, and that there may be a plurality of responses to the request, which are collected and transmitted to the requesting object. In view of the above, Applicants submit that Boyles fails to disclose or suggest notable features of the claimed invention, and as such present claims 1 and 9, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by Boyles.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action. No fee is believed due in regard to the present amendment. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832. Should any questions arise regarding any of the above, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 609-734-6815.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Bichot, et al.
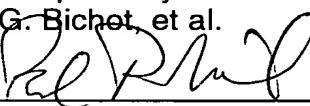
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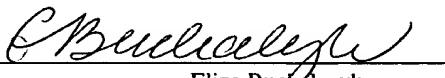   Attorney for Applicants
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